

PLANNING AHEAD FOR YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS

*When your foster care placement ends at age 18 or older, you will no longer be eligible for financial assistance for medical services (check ups, medication, hospitalization) **unless** you sign up for a special program called **BadgerCare Plus**.*

**Look inside to learn
more about the
benefits and how to
sign up!**

BADGERCARE+

Department of Children and Families
Bureau of Youth Services
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, WI 53708-8916



BADGERCARE+

Medical Coverage and Enrollment



***What Foster Care Alumni
Need to Know About
Access to Health Care***



Who's Eligible?

Foster Care Alumni who:

- Were living in a court ordered out-of-home placement at age 18;
- Are between the ages of 18 and 26;
- Were in foster care, subsidized guardianships or court-ordered kinship care placement when they turned 18.

Why Enroll?

- To receive medical financial assistance;
- To get medicine, health check-ups, hospital care, emergency care, counseling, tests, and more.

How Do I Enroll?

You can apply online at:

ACCESS.wi.gov

Once you are found eligible for BadgerCare Plus, an enrollment packet will be sent to you to select an HMO, a health maintenance organization. An HMO is a group of doctors, clinics, and hospitals that work together to provide health care services.

Once enrolled, you will receive a ForwardHealth card to present to health care providers when requesting services.

To remain enrolled in the program, you must update your address every year.

Healthcare Proxy

When you turn 18, you no longer have a guardian to make health care decisions for you. You make all of your decisions.

However, you should consider authorizing someone to make important health care decisions on your behalf if you are too sick to make them yourself. This person is called a **Health Care Proxy**, otherwise known as a **Power of Attorney for Health Care**.

You are able to decide what kind of decisions your Health Care Proxy is allowed to make. Some examples of decisions include:

- Medical treatment;
- Surgical treatment;
- Psychiatric treatment;
- Hospitalization;
- Organ donation;
- Use of life support.



Health Care Proxy Form

Fill out a Health Care Proxy form available from the Department of Health Services website at:

dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives

Give copies of the form to your doctor, your Health Care Proxy, and keep one for yourself.

Choosing your Health Care Proxy

Your advocate should be over age 18 and someone you trust to make health care decisions on your behalf. Ask them in advance. If they say yes, but change their mind later, that is okay. You can change your mind, too, and complete another form.

For More Information

Your County or Regional Independent Living Coordinator/Specialist can assist you in signing up for BadgerCare Plus, as well as answer any questions you may have about the Health Care Proxy form.

To find out who your Independent Living Contact is, go to:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youth/independent/>

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